



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2007

From: Brian Schlieger, On-Scene Coordinator

To:	Ralph Dollhopf, US EPA	Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA
	Linda Nachowicz, U.S. EPA	David Chung, U.S. EPA
	Afif Marouf, U.S. EPA	Phillippa Cannon, US EPA
	Mary Canavan, US EPA	Phil Hoffman, U.S. EPA
	Jeff Roberts, City of Wixom	Gary Sharp, Independence Fire

Subject: Wixom Nitric Release
48602 Downing Street, Wixom, MI
Latitude: 42.5061
Longitude: -83.5319

POLREP No.:	2	Site #:	
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	8/28/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/28/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

At approximately 1430 hours on August 28, 2007, a nitric acid spill was reported at the Tronex Chemical Company located in Wixom, MI. The Responsible Party (RP) has committed to fund the cleanup of the facility. U.S. EPA and START conducted RP oversight and provided air monitoring support.

See Polrep 1 for more detailed initial incident information.

Current Activities

The RP's clean-up contractor continued to conduct cleanup operations inside the Tronex building and also continued soil removal along the southern and eastern exterior edges of the building. Oversight support was conducted by EPA OSCs Jeff Kimble and Brian Schlieger; Weston START, the Wixom Fire Department, and the Oakland County HazMat Team.

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At 1845 hours, heavy lighting and rain caused work stoppage. Work started up again at 2000 hours. Heavy rains created water and sediment build up in the excavation area/retention

pond. RP contractors vacuumed the water from the excavation.

At 2325 hours, START and Oakland County HazMat team members entered the building in Level B personal protective equipment to conduct air monitoring and assess the conditions inside the building. START utilized a Drager pump with nitric acid and carbon monoxide tubes to monitor the air at three locations inside the building and one location directly outside the north truck dock door leading to the decontamination station. No readings were observed on any of the Drager tube samples collected. County HazMat and START did not identify any compromised containers inside the building.

The RP's contractor continued to conduct cleanup activities inside the building in Level C PPE with decontamination support from the Oakland County HazMat team. The RP's contractors also continued with excavation of soils from the retention pond and around the outside of the building, as well as flushing and vacuuming the sewers.

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At 0200 hours, the EPA OSC and the Oakland County HazMat Team entered the building to conduct air monitoring with MultiRae and nitric acid Drager Tubes. Readings were conducted in the production/storage area of the building in addition to the administration/office area. Readings continued to be non-detect for nitric acid and the multigas detector levels remained at background levels.

At 0530 hours, the Oakland County HazMat Team demobilized from the site. START collected pH readings of standing water in street and in former retention pond area. All readings were neutral. The Wixom Fire Chief lifted the evacuation order for Downing Street, and all adjacent businesses for open.

At 0830 hours, clean-up crews continued to remove containers from the building to outside temporary containment areas. Due to elevated carbon monoxide levels in the building from fork lift activities, the clean up contractor placed fans at both ends of the building for better air circulation through the work areas.

At 1115 hours, START entered the building to perform air monitoring and assess the conditions inside the building. START utilized a Drager pump with nitric Acid and carbon monoxide tubes to monitor the air inside and outside the building. Nitric acid was not detected. Carbon monoxide was detected below action levels for increasing personnel protective equipment. An approximate inventory of materials that need to be removed from the building was calculated: Totes = 53, Drums = 259, Misc (pallets of ≤ 5 gallon containers and pallets of bagged raw product) = 46, and Tanks = 15. Approximately 75% of the materials have been removed from the building and staged in the outside containments. At 1525 hours, START tested the pH of the soil in the areas that have been excavated. All readings were neutral.

At 1740 hours, START entered the building to perform air monitoring and assess the conditions inside the building. START utilized a Drager pump with nitric acid and carbon

monoxide tubes to monitor the air inside and outside the building. Nitric acid was not detected. Carbon monoxide was detected below action levels for increasing personnel protective equipment. Approximately 90% of the materials have been removed from the building and staged in the temporary outside containment areas.

At 1830 hours, START and the clean-up contractor collected high surface dust samples from the walls and ledges of the building and tested the pH levels of the dust. All readings were neutral.

Planned Removal Actions

Remove remaining gross soil contamination in retention pond and stage in roll-off boxes for disposal. Coordinate long term soil issues with MDEQ.

Move remaining containers outside of building in order to collect remaining free liquids trapped around containers.

Assess stability of the containers in order to ensure they were not damaged by the spill or the fumes. Overpack any compromised drums.

Continue to decontaminate entire floor and lower portion of the facility walls.

RP's clean-up contractor to dispose of all wastes in accordance with off-site disposal regulations.

EPA and START continue to provide air monitoring and clean-up contractor oversight support in conjunction with the Oakland County HazMat Team. 24 hour operations are currently being staffed with personnel rotations. This evening's night shift is anticipated to be the last night shift for the operations.

Next Steps

Initiate discussions with RP, City of Wixom, and MDEQ regarding longer term plans for containers once they are assessed.

Continue with any remaining Planned Removal Actions.

Key Issues

Initiate discussions with RP, City of Wixom, and MDEQ regarding longer term plans for containers once they are assessed.

Continue with any remaining Planned Removal Actions.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining

Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

www.epaosc.net/wixomnitricrelease